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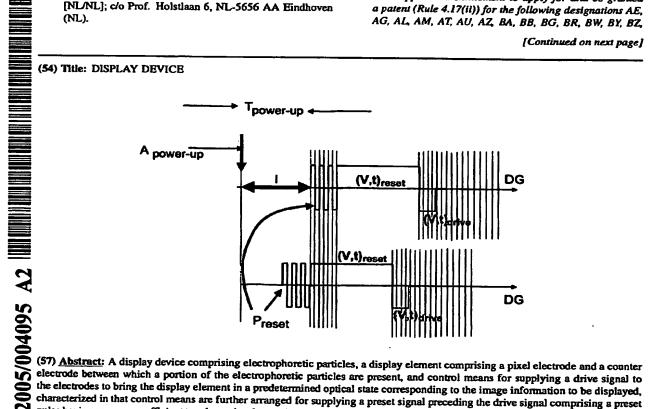
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the electrodes to bring the display element in a predetermined optical state corresponding to the image information to be displayed, characterized in that control means are further arranged for supplying a preset signal preceding the drive signal comprising a preset pulse having an energy sufficient to release the electrophoretic particles at a first position near one of the two electrodes corresponding to a first optical state, but too low to enable the particles to reach a second position near the other electrode corresponding to a second optical state, and in that the control means are further arranged for supplying the preset signal, in anticipation of or upon receipt of a power-up or image change operation.